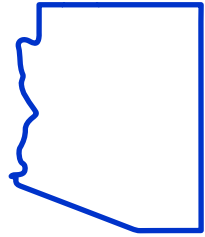


Analysis: Federal budget cuts would contaminate Arizona's air and water, leaving Arizonans vulnerable to long-term health risks

The President's budget proposes eliminating core protections, putting Arizonans' health at risk and letting polluters off the hook.



Everyone deserves clean air and water. These basic public health rights are why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created: to prevent pollution that triggers asthma attacks and heart disease, and to safeguard our drinking water from contamination.

President Trump's budget proposes decimating the EPA, giving polluters a free pass to pump toxic chemicals into Arizonans' air and water. The proposal slashes the EPA's overall budget by more than half, including gutting more than **86%** of funds to provide safe drinking water to Arizona communities.

EPA's investments keep Arizonans' water drinkable and their air breathable, and it holds the polluters who threaten those basic rights accountable.

Water Contamination

Clean water isn't just a basic right—it's a requirement for survival.



**86% cut
to Arizona's Drinking Water
SRF (over \$16 mil)**



**90% cut
to Arizona's Clean Water
SRF (over \$9 mil)**



**Over 750k Arizonans
drinking problematic
level of toxic PFAS**

Arizona has an estimated **11,532** lead service lines, and [EPA data](#) show that more than 750,000 Arizonans are served by a water utility releasing a problematic level of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), otherwise known as “forever chemicals,” into drinking water. President Trump's budget would hamper Arizona's ability to address these issues by eliminating most of the state's funding for ensuring clean and safe water.

EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) provide low-interest loans and other financial assistance to public water systems for critical drinking water infrastructure projects, including lead service line replacement and treatment for PFAS in drinking water.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Unsafe Drinking Water: President Trump's budget cuts mean Arizona's federal resources would be reduced by 86% (over \$16 million) for its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), leaving Arizonans without the bulk of federal funding needed to ensure they have safe drinking water. The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona, for example, [received](#) more than \$19 million from the Drinking Water SRF in 2021 for water improvement projects such as treatment, storage, and transmission across the state.

Insufficient Infrastructure: Citizens in cities like [Phoenix](#) rely heavily on federal funding from the Clean Water SRF. President Trump's proposal to cut it by 90% (over \$9 million) could disrupt capital planning and critical improvements to aging infrastructure, which leads to poor water quality and higher water bills.

Air Pollution

Everyone deserves clean air, and breathing shouldn't make you sick.



President Trump's budget would gut programs that support clean air and eliminate vital protections that Arizonans depend on. Nearly **730,000 Arizonans** (roughly 1 in 10), including more than 125,000 children, suffer from asthma, putting them at increased risk of attacks triggered by smog and soot from unchecked pollution.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Poor Air Quality: President Trump's proposed elimination of all federal funding for State & Local Air Quality Management Grants would have lasting effects in Arizona, which received over \$4.6 million from these grants in 2023. Without federal support, state agencies would be forced to reduce staff, curtail monitoring networks, or potentially abandon certain projects, such as the **Arizona/Sonora Action Plan** to reduce air pollution. This would lead to increased health risks for vulnerable populations and set back progress on meeting national air quality standards.

Increased Vehicle Emissions: President Trump's budget would eliminate the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program, which provided more than \$3.5 million to Arizona in 2024. This would undercut the state's efforts to replace older polluting trucks and buses with newer, cleaner technologies that don't emit cancer-causing fumes, as it was able to do **recently** at Northern Arizona University in 2021, swapping out 2008 diesel transit buses with battery electric buses.

Letting Polluters Off the Hook

Polluters shouldn't get a free pass to pollute, and no one is above the law.



EPA enforcement ensures that polluters are held accountable and that environmental protections are real—not just words on paper. Trump is proposing to cut EPA's enforcement budget by 45%, a move that would make air less breathable and water less drinkable. As of September 2025, Arizona has **more than 620 facilities** with current violations. Without enforcement resources, efforts to bring polluters into compliance—like those below—risk being abandoned, resulting in unchecked pollution in Arizona.

Examples of What's at Stake:

Mismanagement of Hazardous Substances: In 2023, EPA **took action** against Hill Brothers Chemical Company for failing to properly manage toxic chemicals like sulfur dioxide and anhydrous ammonia at a facility near Phoenix. Through EPA's enforcement, the company was required to implement safer storage and handling practices, reducing the risk of future releases that could cause severe burns and lung damage. This action helped protect nearby communities from ongoing exposure to hazardous substances.

Pollution Without Permitting: In 2024, EPA brought Fann Contracting, Inc. **into compliance** after it operated a portable hot mix asphalt plant without proper permitting, which posed risks of emitting up to 250 tons of carbon monoxide. EPA's action required the company to obtain the necessary permits and follow pollution controls, protecting Arizonans—especially the Navajo Nation—from dangerous air pollution and ensuring that future operations meet clean air standards.

Bottom Line

EPA's air and water safeguards should give Arizonans the freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water without a second thought. But President Trump's budget request for EPA would severely weaken or outright eliminate the programs and enforcement actions protecting Arizonans from polluters.

Visit our **[website](#)** and take action for Arizona.

